



TO: Hospital Advisory Group members and other interested parties  
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DATE: April 10, 2001

**March 29, 2001 Meeting Summary  
17 in attendance**

1. Our first presentation was on the rechargeable battery recycling services now available from the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, a non-profit company funded by the manufacturers of rechargeable batteries. Everyone in attendance received a packet of information. Although the amount of rechargeable batteries does not make up a large percentage of a hospital's waste stream, it is a waste stream that can be recycled. RBRC is one option a hospital has for this waste stream. For more information, visit RBRC's web site at [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org).
2. We next discussed IDEM's mercury reduction pledge and other mercury issues. We discussed the recent research on mercury and how it affects the structure of nerve cells. Scientists are learning more about how mercury affects human health. We discussed House Bill 1901, which is a mercury bill currently making its way through the Indiana Legislature. Also, there is a new brochure entitled "Improve Your Community's Health," published by the American Hospital Association (AHA). This piece should help hospitals in their solid waste recycling and mercury reduction efforts. The brochure describes the memorandum of understanding between US EPA and the AHA concerning solid waste recycling and mercury reduction.
3. We discussed the Special Waste/Industrial Waste issue. It appears at this time that there will no longer be a classification of waste called "special" or "industrial" in Indiana. There is a bill in the legislature that addresses this issue.
4. Open Forum issues: low-level nuclear waste management, recycling grant opportunities for non-profit hospitals, recycling of spent fluorescent lamps